

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 050932
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050932

FOLLOWING REPEAT BELGRADE 1585 ACTION SECSTATE DATED FEB 26:

QTE: O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1585

FOR JOHN KORNBLUM (EUR/RPM) FROM AMB GODLBERG

EO 11652: GDS
TAGSC CSCE, OCON
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR GOLDBER'S WEEKEND NEGOTIATIONS -- BELGRADE CSCE

1. PURSUANT TO MANDATE OF THE NATO CAUCUS, AMBASSADOR MELLBIN (DENMARK/EC) AND I MET WITH YUGOSLAV AMB PESIC AT 1100 THIS MORNING. MEETING LATED FOR OVER AN HOUR. WE ALSO TRIED TO REACH VORONTSOV BUT WERE TOLD HE WAS SICK AND WOULD MEET WITH US TOMORROW. I REGARD THIS AS CLASSIC CASE OF DIPLOMATIC ILLNESS DESIGNED TO EXPLOIT FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES OUR REJECTION OF THE NNA SHORT DRAFT CONCLUDING DOCUMENT.

2. AT THE MEETING WITH PESIC, MELLBIN AND I MADE EXPLICITLY CLEAR WHAT WE HAD TOLD THE FULL NNA GROUP YESTERDAY MORNING; I.E., THAT THE YUGOSLAV PAPER WAS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT WAS SELECTIVE IN NATURE. IT WAS NOT BALANCED AS IS THE FINAL ACT ITSELF
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 050932

AND PLAYS THE RUSSIAN GAME BY NOT MENTIONING BASKET III AND PRINCIPLE 7 TOPICS. SPEAKING FOR ALL THE FIFTEEN, MELLBIN GAVE PESIC A PARAGRAPH

BY PARAGRAPH ANALYSIS OF THE NNA PAPER WHICH DEMONSTRATED ITS UNACCEPTABLILITY. WE THEN SKETCHED OUT FOR PESIC OUR PREFERRED NATO SHORT NON-SUBSTANTIVE PAPER.

3. PESIC NOTED BY WAY OF REPLY THAT BELGRADE WAS NOT A HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION MEETING AND THAT SUCH MATTERS SHOULD BE RAISED IN THE UN HUMAN RIGHT COMMISSION. I REPLIED THAT WHILE OUR MEETING DID NOT FOCUS ENTIRELY ON HUMAN RIGHTS, NEVERTHELESS PRINCIPLE 7 AND BASKET III TOPICS ARE IMPORTANT AT THIS CONFERENCE AND IN CSCE IN GENERAL. I NOTED THAT OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA WAS RAISING HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS AND HAD STATED THAT IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT SUCH QUESTIONS WERE BEING DISCUSSED IN BELGRADE.

4. IN A TOUGH BUT CORDIAL CONCLUDING EXCHANGE WE REITERATED THAT THE NNA PAPER WAS A COMPLETE "NON-STARTER" IN ITS PRESENT FORM. FOR THE ALLIES SOME ELEMENTS OF BM/65 AND OF THE OTHER NNA POSITION PAPERS MUST FIND THEIR WAY INTO SUCH A CONCLUDING DOCUMENT. PESIC DEMURRED, STATING THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NEVER ACCEPT SUCH REFERENCES. PESIC ALSO NOTED THE YUGOSLAVS INTENDED TO CONTINUE PUTTING FORWARD THEIR VERSION OF A DRAFT CONCLUDING DOCUMENT.

MELLBIN AND I REPLIED THIS WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT THAT THE WEST HAD EQUAL RIGHT TO STICK TO ITS POSITION. PESIC FINALLY INDICATED THAT ON THE BASIS OF ALL COMMENTS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM BOTH SIDES THE NNAS WILL TRY TO MAKE SOME MODIFICATION IN THEIR PAPER. I INDICATED WE WOULD BE WILLING TO EXAMINE SUCH MODIFICATIONS WHEN THEY ARE FORTHCOMING. (INCIDENTALLY, PESIC STATED YESTERDAY AND TODAY THAT NNA PAPER HAD NOT RECEIVED FULL CONSENSUS OF NNA CAUCUS AND THAT PAPER WAS LARGELY A YUGOSLAV PRODUCT THAT THE OTHER NNAS HAD AUTHORIZED THEM TO PUT FORWARD ON THEIR OWN.)
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PAGE 03 STATE 050932

5. GIVEN THE PRESENT DETERIORATING PUBLIC RELATIONS SITUATION IN WHICH WE ARE APPEARING INCREASINGLY TO THE PUBLIC AS REJECTING A "NEUTRAL" INITIATIVE, AMBASSADOR MELLBIN AND I HAVE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF TABLING THE SHORT NATO CONCLUDING DOCUMENT THIS MONDAY, FEB. 27. MELLBIN PLANS TO CONTACT THE EC-9 REPS ON THIS POSSIBILITY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THEIR APPROVAL. HE WILL ALSO BE CONTACTING OTHER NEUTRALS CONCERNING THEIR DEGREE OF SUPPORT FOR THE NNA PAPER AND IN ORDER TO SOUND THEM OUT ABOUT SUPPORTING OR PERHAPS EVEN ONE OF THEM INTRODUCING THE SHORT NATO DRAFT. NEITHER MELLBIN OR I BELIEVE IT LIKELY ANY OF THE NEUTRALS WILL BE WILLING TO GO THIS FAR. I BELIEVE THAT TABLING THE SHORT NATO DRAFT AT THIS JUNCTURE IS IN OUR INTERESTS AND COULD WELL SERVE THE NEGOTIATING SITUATION SINCE IT WOULD PUT US IN AN OFFENSIVE POSTURE OF CONTROLLING EVENTS RATHER THAN MERELY REACTING TO THEM. PURSUANT TO PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS, AND ASSUMING EC-9 APPROVAL I WILL JOIN IN SUPPORT OF TABLING THE NATO DOCUMENT WHEN DISCUSSED AT THE 11 AM NATO CAUCUS FEB 27. SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY DOUBT ABOUT THIS COURSE OF ACTION I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING YOUR COMMENTS OR SUGGESTION BY OOB BELGRADE FEB 27 SO THAT I CAN CONVEY THEM TO AMBASSADOR MELLBIN BEFORE HE MEETS WITH THE EC-9.

6. IN MY VIEW CORRENT YUGOSLAV TACTICS ARE A CLASSIC
EXAMPLE OF TRADITIONAL YUGOSLAV DIPLOMACY. EARLIER THEY HAD
SEEMED TO LEAN A BIT TOWARDS OUR POSITION BUT THE CURRENT NNW PAPER
(WHICH IS LARGELY A YUGOSLAV PRODUCT) SEEMS TO LEAN MORE TOWARDS THE
SOVIET POSITION. HOW LONG THE YUGOSLAVS WILL PERSIST IN THEIR
CURRENT TACTICS I CANNOT SAY BUT THEIR INTRANSIGENCE IS LIKELY TO
BE AFFECTED BY THE FILING OF THE SHORT NATO DRAFT CONCLUDING
DOCUMENT.
GOLDBERG UNQTE VANCE

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